

To the Redistricting Committee,

My name is Bruce Humphreys. I live in CD 2, HD 53, and SD 27. I participated in the last Redistricting effort with testimony. I humbly submit my testimony for the 2021 redistricting effort.

When I look at The current maps for Central Oregon one thing stands out to me. The city of Bend shares nothing in common with other constituency districts that Bend is currently part of. My testimony in the previous redistricting focused on “communities of interest”. That is where I intend to focus my comments today. The citizens of Bend have little or no shared interests with many of the other communities in the current CD2. That is why I am advocating for Congress Map Plan A. Bend is now a very urban city. That places it firmly into similar communities of interest in the Hood River, Gresham, and East Portland areas which would make up the revised CD3. The rural communities that would then make up the revised CD 2 would be much better represented by a Congressperson that can focus on the unique needs Eastern and South Western Oregon share.

I will now address the House seats in the Bend area. The last time we redistricted, I advocated for the “donut and hole” shapes of HD53 and HD54. It may now be time to move away from that plan and move to a plan that may split Bend, but will retain the communities of interest for the city of Bend and surrounding environs. House Plans A and C look to create 2 districts with shared interests and more manageable areas to represent, especially HD53. I realize that the “blueness” of Bend will be somewhat diluted, but there might be a better chance for the SunRiver and Sisters areas to gain a representative that understands the increasingly urbanized nature of those two communities. Then Redmond can be placed in a house district that is more in line with the current values of that area.

Finally, I will address SD27. Once again, Bend is a very urban area and constituency. Redmond while growing in population, is still very rural in constituency. Senate Plan A and B represent these changes to the Central Oregon community of interests. And Senate Plan B may address it best. Bend and its surrounding community deserve to be represented by a senator that understands and shares the concerns of an increasingly urban area. And Redmond deserves to be represented by a senator that understands the unique ruralness of Redmond and its citizens.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my input on the 2021 redistricting process in Oregon.

Respectfully,
Bruce Humphreys